

Minutes of the North Bend Parks Commission Meeting of March 27, 2013

Minutes are draft until approved at the following Parks Commission Meeting.

Attendance:

- Parks Commissioners in attendance: Chris Moore, Phil Lacefield, Eric Thompson, Yvonne Dalke, Aubrey McMichael.
- Parks Commissioners absent: Karen Wallace (notified ahead), John Fredenburg (notified ahead), Eric Thompson.
- Staff in attendance: Mike McCarty, Senior Planner.
- Guests in attendance: Roy Baunsgard, Snoqualmie Valley Little League President, Mark Pray, Public Works Supervisor.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00.

Proposal by Snoqualmie Valley Little League

Roy Baunsgard, president of the Snoqualmie Valley Little League, came to discuss a proposal by the Little League to partner with the City to construct new backstops for the 5 westernmost softball fields at Torguson Park, and a new restroom/concession facility at the center of the four field quad. The proposal would also possibly include re-positioning one or more fields as necessary to make room for the restroom/concession building. (Mr. Baunsgard clarified that the fields currently have a 300-foot outfield, and could be reduced to 280-285 feet and still be playable for softball, subject to a higher outfield fence). The proposal would also require extension of water and sewer lines necessary to serve the restroom/concession building.

The Parks Commission was favorable to the idea, and replacement of the backstops at Torguson Park is listed as a project on the City's Parks Capital Facilities Plan, thereby enabling use of park impact fee revenue toward the project, should the City Council wish. Mike McCarty clarified that Park Impact Fee revenue can only be used for projects listed on the Parks Capital Facilities Plan, and suggested that the cost share agreement may need to be structured to have the Little League construct the restroom/concession, with the City constructing the backstops, unless the Parks Capital Facilities Plan was amended to add the restroom/concession as a project. Mark Pray suggested that the Parks Commission should also consider the long-term future use of Torguson Park as to whether to develop the fields for baseball (smaller field) or softball use. This would include considering the availability of baseball and softball fields in other existing or planned facilities in North Bend.

The Parks Commission requested that Mr. Baunsgard further develop the Little League's proposal, including a layout plan and a conceptual budget, to bring back to the Parks Commission for further consideration and a possible recommendation to the City Council. Mr. Baunsgard indicated that he should be able to have a proposal back to the Parks Commission for their next meeting in May.

Si View MPD Plans for Tollgate Farm Park – Bid Alternates

Mike McCarty provided an overview of a request by the Si View Metropolitan Park District (MPD) for the Parks Commission to make a recommendation on bid alternates for the project. Mike clarified that there may be insufficient funds for the MPD to implement all of the proposed phase 1 features at Tollgate Farm park, due to additional unforeseen archaeological costs at the property. As such, the MPD prepared four bid alternates that could be added to the base bid for projects that could possibly be added back in to original proposal should funds be available, as further described in the memo from Andy Mitton at the Berger Partnership (in the Parks

Commission packet). The MPD requested that the Parks Commission provide prioritization on these four bid-alternates. The Parks Commission's prioritization is as follows, in descending order of preference:

1. (Most important): Alternative 2 Boardwalk below SR-202 (most important for making pedestrian connections off-site to downtown, Snoqualmie Valley Trail, Meadowbrook Farm, etc.)
2. Alternative 1 – north boardwalk/pathway connection (secondary importance for completing the loop within the park)
3. Alternative 4 - additional picnic tables
4. Alternative 3 - widened trails

Tollgate Farm Play Equipment

Mike McCarty presented a proposal by the Si View MPD to revise the proposed playground equipment at Tollgate Farm Park. The MPD's quote for the playground equipment that was originally recommended by the Parks Commission had expired due to lengthy state permitting requirements for archaeological issues on the property, and as such the MPD is exploring other alternatives for the equipment. Mike shared a proposed farm-themed playground structure that the MPD is interested to provide, and asked the Parks Commission whether they wished to provide a recommendation on this proposal.

The Parks Commission had the following recommendations:

1. While the farm-themed play equipment is visually appealing and nicely ties to the farm history of the property, they did not feel the significant additional cost is worth the added visual appeal over the equipment they had previously recommended (Playcraft Systems Custom Round 5 Modular Playsystem).
2. Even given the cost difference, the Parks Commissioners preferred the previous play equipment to the farm-themed play equipment for the following reasons:
 - a. The previous play equipment proposal had more overall equipment than the farm-themed equipment.
 - b. The previous play equipment proposal had a greater variety of equipment and was more suitable to a wider range of ages. They felt the farm-themed equipment was primarily geared toward young kids.
 - c. The previous play equipment proposal had more area for active plan and on-equipment tag and chase games than the farm-themed proposal, which they felt was key to the way kids use play equipment.
3. The Parks Commission felt it would provide more "bang for the buck" to use the \$50,000 difference to add additional equipment to the previous less-expensive proposal than to go with the more expensive farm-themed proposal.
4. They recommended that Si View do an informal survey at the community center, by which kids could vote on their favorite of three options that are within the budget for the park. This could be conducted as a simple wall display, with an area to place a voting sticker below the illustration of each alternative. The alternative with the most votes after a certain period (say 2 weeks) would be selected. They felt it was important for this survey to be done with kids rather than just parents, as they are the target audience and users of the equipment.

Mike McCarty clarified that because the park is a public park, a Parks Commission recommendation is required for the equipment and facilities. Because the Parks Commission did not recommend the farm-themed playground equipment, the Si View MPD will need to bring back a revised play equipment proposal for the Parks Commission's recommendation once determined.

Landscape/Trail Plans for Si View Estates Subdivision

Mike McCarty presented the proposal for landscape and trail plans within the Si View Estates Subdivision, including recommendations in the staff report prepared by Senior Planner Jamie Burrell (in the Parks Commission packet). The Parks Commission recommended approval of the plans with the conditions as provided in the staff report, with the addition of widening the proposed trail to meet the trail standards in NBMC 17.25, and adding an active recreational feature in the form of a simple climbable play structure.

Arbor Day Recognition for 2013

Mike McCarty asked the Parks Commission for suggestions on groups that could participate in an Arbor Day event in April, or alternatively, in October (tree planting seasons). Mike stated that the project would likely be planting additional trees within the parking lot at Torguson Park, continuing the effort that was started with last year's Arbor Day recognition at the park. Chris Moore offered to contact the Karate association that his son is a part of, and would get back to Mike with an answer on their interest, and a date that would work for them. Mike suggested that Fridays would likely be a good time for this, possibly April 12.

Minutes of the January 23, 2013 Parks Commission Meeting

Phil Lacefield made a motion to approve the January 23, 2013 meeting minutes, seconded by Yvonne Dalke. The motion passed unanimously.

Parks Commission Meeting Times:

As previously discussed at the last Parks Commission meeting, due to increased staff workload, the Parks Commission agreed to meeting every-other month rather than monthly. Mike informed the Parks Commission that a motion by the Parks Commission would be necessary to establish this, including the time and place of the meetings. Yvonne Dalke provided a motion, seconded by Phil Lacefield, to establish the Parks Commission meetings as the fourth Wednesday of the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November, 6pm at the Community and Economic Development Office. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment - The Meeting adjourned at 7:35.

Next Meeting - The next meeting of the Parks Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, May22 at 6pm.

Approval of Parks Commission Minutes:


Chris Moore, Parks Commission Chair

 5/22/2013
Mike McCarty, Senior Planner

Minutes prepared by Mike McCarty

